

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM NATO

SUBJECT: REVISION OF MBFR DATA: NATO FORCES

REF: A) STATE 161952; B) STATE 182239; C) USNATO 4239

1. WE AGREE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF DEVELOPING COMPARABLE NATO/WP DATA IN A SINGLE DOCUMENT PER REF A. HOWEVER, THE LINKING OF THE TWO SETS OF DATA VIA THE METHOD PROPOSED IN REF B WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE DRAWBACKS IN THE FIRST MCM. WE BELIEVE OBJECTIVE FOR THE FIRST MCM ON WP DATA SHOULD BE TO ACHIEVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ANTO AGREED DATA ON WP FORCES. INTRODUCTION OF NATO FORCES ATA INTO FIRST MCM COULD INTRODUCE NEW PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT DELAY AGREEMENT ON WHOLE MCM. IN ADDITION, IF ALLIES DO NOT APPROVE FIRST MCM OUT-OF-COMMITTEE PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 30 MC 224 CONFERENCE, THE INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS ATTENDING THAT CONFERENCE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DISCUSS ANY OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES, AND THAT WOULD NOT BE AN APPROPRIATE PLACE TO DISCUSS NATO FORCE DATA.

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2. WE SUGGEST SEPARATE ONE-TIME QUESTIONNAIRE ON NATO FORCES FOR MBFR PURPOSES. NATIONAL RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE COULD THE N BE COMPILED INTO A SEPARATE BUT SIMILAR DOCUMENT TO THE MCM ON

WP. UPON DEVELOPMENT OF BOTH DOCUMENTS, WE SEE NO REASON WHY
SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS COULD NOT BE PUBLISHED AND UPDATED IN
A COMBINED FORMAT SUCH AS AN MCM. IN OUR VIEW, IT WOULD
BE BENEFICIAL IF WASHINGTON COULD PERSUADE UK AS AUTHOR OF
DRAFT MCM, TO INTRODUCE CONCEPT OF ONE-TIME SEPARATE QUESTIONNAIRE
ON NATO FORCES INTO MBFR WORKING GROUP.

3. WE ENVISAGE FOLLOWING SCENARIO:

A. U.S. DEVELOPE (IN COORDINATION WITH UK) SPECIAL QUESTIONNAIR
E
ON NATO FORCES. QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD ASK FOR INFORMATION COMPARABLE
TO DATA BEING REQUESTED ON PACT FORCES IN MCM.

B. INTRODUCTION OF QUESTIONNAIRE CONCEPT INTO MBFR WG
BY UK AT EARLIEST FEASIBLE DATA, USING AS KEY ARGUMENT NEED
FOR TIMELY MATCHING DATA ON NATO AND PACT FORCES.

C. IF WASHINGTON WISHES SUBSEQUENT MCM'S TO COMBINE NATO
AND WP DATA, INTRODUCTION OF CONCEPT SHOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT
SEPARATE QUESTIONNAIRE ON NATO FORCES IS A ONE-TIME REQUIREMENT, AND
THAT ONCE COMPARABLE DOCUMENTS ON BOTH SIDES ARE DEVELOPED, FUTURE UP
DATES
OF MCM WOULD INCLUDE REQUEST FOR COMPRABLE DATEA ON NATO FORCES.
THIS WOULD ELIMINATE FUTURE NEED FOR SPECIAL QUESTIONNAIRE.
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